Library

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Lostwithiel.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the Borough for the year 1960.

I wish to record my thanks to Mr. Cottrell, the Borough Surveyor, and to Mr. Watts for their continued help.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

(sgd.) JAMES TURNER

Medical Officer of Health

MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	3050
Population (estimated mid-year)	2000
(Number of Inhabited Houses	686
(Rateable value	£19,495
(Product of a Penny Rate	£77

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	Male	Female	Total	Rate per 1,000 Population: Lostwithiel	Rate per 1,000 Population: England and Wales
LIVE BIRTHS					
Legitimate	7	16	23	11.6	-
Illegitimate	0	0			
Corrected for comparison with other areas				12.5	17.1
Illegitimate births per cent of total births				0	-
STILL BIRTHS				Rate per 1,000 Live and Still Births	
Legitimate	1	0	1	41.7	19.7
Illegitimate	0	0			
Total Live and Still Births	8	16	24		
INFANT DEATHS					
Legitimate	0	0	0	0	
Illegitimate	0	0			
Rate per 1,000 total live births				0.0	21.7
do. legitimate births					-
do. illegitimate births					-
NEO-NATAL DEATHS				Rate per 1,000 Live Births	
Infant deaths under 4 weeks	0	0	0	0	15.6
EARLY NEO-NATAL DEATHS					
Infant deaths under 1 week	0	0	0	0	-
PERI-NATAL DEATHS				Rate per 1,000 Live and Still Births	
Still births and deaths under 1 week	1	0	1	41.7	-
MATERNAL DEATHS	0	0	0	0.0	0.39
DEATHS (All ages and causes)	19	10	29	14.6	-
Rate corrected for comparison with other areas				10.4	11.5

CAUSES OF DEATH

The following table gives the causes of death in accordance with the International Abbreviated List (1948)

Diseases	Males	Females
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	-
2. Tuberculosis, other	-	-
3. Syphilitic Disease	-	-
4. Diphtheria	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-
6. Meningococcal Infections	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-
8. Measles	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	-	-
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	1	-
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	-
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	1
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	2	-
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	-
16. Diabetes	-	-
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	4	-
18. Coronary disease angina	3	1
19. Hypertension with heart disease	-	2
20. Other heart disease	3	3
21. Other circulatory disease	1	-
22. Influenza	-	-
23. Pneumonia	-	-
24. Bronchitis	1	-
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	-	-
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	1
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	-
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	-	-
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	-	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-
31. Congenital malformations	-	-

Diseases	Males	Females
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	2	2
33. Motor vehicle accidents	-	-
34. All other accidents	-	-
35. Suicide	-	-
36. Homicide and operations of war	-	-
All causes	19	10

The following short table gives the numbers of those dying in the age groups indicated:-

Age Group		
0-1 year	-	-
1-59 years	6	2
60-69 years	3	1
70-79 years	4	2
80-89 years	2	2
90 and over	3	3

Average age at death Males 67.2 years
Females 74.7 years

The following table gives the percentage contribution of the main causes of death. As the figures in any one year are small and fluctuate widely I have averaged over the past ten years.

	(Average 1950-1960) Lostwithiel	England and Wales (1958)
Tuberculosis	1.7 *	0.9
All cancer	16.7	18.2
Vascular lesions of Central nervous system	14.6	14.5
Diseases of circulatory system	43.2	37.5
Diseases of respiratory system	6.0	11.5
Diseases of digestive system	2.1	2.9
Diseases of genito-urinary system	2.2	2.0
Congenital malformations	0.4	2.7
Accidents, violence etc.	6.8	4.3

* no deaths since 1953

Generally speaking, respiratory deaths in Cornwall are about half those of England and Wales.

SECTION A

Lostwithiel is a quiet country town set in pleasant surroundings in the valley of the Fowey River. The town has many historic associations and has some very well preserved buildings. The only industry of any consequence is the milk depot.

There is a considerable rise in the population during the summer months caused by the influx of visitors.

SECTION B

General Provisions of Health Service

Public Health Office

(1) Medical Officer of Health, J.G.S. Turner, M.B., B.Sc., D.P.H., Area Health Office, Moorland Road, St.Austell. Telephone: St.Austell 2206.

(2) Public Health Inspector: L.J. Cottrell

Laboratory Facilities. These are available at the Royal Cornwall Infirmary, Truro, where all material is sent for investigation.

Diphtheria Prophylaxis. Supplies of diphtheria prophylactic alone, and in various combinations with whooping cough vaccine and tetanus toxoid are available at the Area Health Office. Poliomyelitis vaccine has been readily available and is issued on request.

Ambulance Facilities. The control of ambulances has passed from the Area Health Office to a special control centre at Bodmin. There will be no change in availability and the method of obtaining an ambulance is unchanged.

NURSING IN THE HOME. There is one District Nurse, Midwife-Health Visitor, who is able to cope with all demands.

HOME HELP. This service has worked well and thanks are due to Mrs. Liddicoat and to Mrs. Clark, who administer the service.

A total of two cases were helped.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE. There is no clinic but as the nurse visits regularly in the home, the health of the children is well supervised.

HOSPITALS. There are no hospitals in the area and patients are sent to St.Austell, Bodmin, Fowey, Truro and Redruth. Patients with infectious diseases are sent to Truro Isolation Hospital when necessary.

SECTION C

Water Supply

Average daily consumption remained constant at approximately 80,000 g.p.d.

Ministry approval to the Lostwithiel extension to utilise the resources of

the Fowey River Water Committee was obtained.

Work is expected to commence early in 1961 and all parts of the town will benefit from an increased head of water as a result of this scheme.

Samples of water from St. George's Reservoir, Collebeacon Reservoir and various points on the distribution system have been taken at fortnightly intervals. Results have shown a satisfactory standard of bacteriological purity.

No. of samples	26	
Results satisfactory	23	
Results unsatisfactory	3 *	Unsatisfactory samples

* before chlorination

Samples of reports

Date	Place of Sample	Coliformbacilli McConkey 2 days. 37°C	B.Coli.	Remarks
10.12.59.	Tap, Council Yard	3	1	Unsatisfactory
11. 7.60.	Tap, Council Yard	0	0	Satisfactory
11. 7.60.	Tap, Barn Park	0	0	do.
18.11.60.	Collebeacon Reservoir	90	0	do.

Sewerage

No progress has been made concerning sewage disposal for the town though the problem is an urgent one.

I suggest that consideration be given for the construction of two disposal plants, one on either side of the river to avoid the expensive river crossing and to reduce the amount of pumping necessary.

SECTION D

Housing

Inspections under the Housing Acts totalled 219. Informal notices and interviews with Landlords secured the necessary repairs in 201 cases. The remainder consisted of trivial complaints and housing overcrowding applications.

Housing of Old People

Vacant possession of the Tangier site is shortly to be obtained so that work can commence. Detailed plans for 12 old people's units are being prepared. It is hoped to complete this scheme at an early date.

Housing Improvements

Full use has been made of grants for purpose of housing improvement.

Number of applications for Standard Grants 9. Approved 9.

SECTION E

Meat and other foods

Meat from Liskeard forms the bulk of fresh meat sold in the District.

Slaughtering is still carried out in the one owner/occupier slaughterhouse, where the standard of animals slaughtered is very high.

Summary of Meat Inspections

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number of Animals slaughtered	49	-	-	53	51
Number inspected	47	-	-	51	49
All diseases except T.B. whole carcases condemned	Nil	-	-	Nil	Nil
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	2	-	-	1	1
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than T.B.	4.25%	-	-	1.96%	2.04%
T.B. only whole carcase condemned	Nil	-	-	Nil	Nil
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	-	-	Nil	Nil
Percentage of number inspected affected with T.B.	Nil	-	-	Nil	Nil
C. Bovis infection	Nil	-	-	Nil	Nil

Other foods

Small quantities of tinned goods are inspected upon request from various retailers in the town. As a result small quantities are condemned from time to time mainly as a result of decomposition or damaged tins.

Foods Condemned - Corned Beef 2 lbs.
Tinned Ham 30 lbs.

Milk

Periodic visits are made to retailers in the town.

The three retailers' premises were found to be satisfactory and only bottled milk is sold as it is received from the bottling establishment.

Cafes, Restaurants and Food Preparing Premises

Visits of inspection are made to food preparing premises, including cafes and restaurants. The standard of cleanliness was found to be satisfactory.

Application for the enlargement of one cafe was refused because of the unsatisfactory type of building which it was intended to utilise.

SECTION F

Prevalence of and control over infectious and other diseases

The following notifications were received:-

Disease	Number of Cases during 1960	Rate for 1,000 Population: Lostwithiel 1959	Lostwithiel 1960	England and Wales 1960
Whooping cough	1	1.0	0.5	1.26
Acute encephalitis	2	0.0	1.0	0.0
Measles	1	1.5	0.5	3.46

The two cases of encephalitis were found to have a coxackie B.5 virus.

Two other members of the family of one of these cases had similar illnesses. The origin of the infection could not be ascertained.

Diphtheria Immunisation

Number of children at 31st December, 1960, who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date (i.e. at any time since 1st January, 1946).

Age at 31/12/60 i.e. born in year	Under 1 1960	1-4 1959-56	5-9 1955-51	10-14 1950-46	Under 15 years Total
(1) Last complete course of injections (primary or booster)					
(a) 1956-60	4	91	101	107	303
(b) 1955 or earlier	-	-	51	124	175
(2) Estimated mid-year child population	23	99	144	169	435
(3) Immunity Index i.e. $100 \frac{(1)(a)}{(2)}$	17.4%	92.0	70.1	63.3	69.7

These figures are very satisfactory.

Smallpox Vaccination

Twenty two persons received primary vaccination and five were revaccinated.

Vaccination against Poliomyelitis

As polio vaccine became more readily available there was a considerable extension of vaccination and the offer to vaccinate was raised to include those aged up to 40 years.

Altogether 412 persons have been given three injections and a large number one or two injections.

Tuberculosis

The number of cases on the register at the end of the year was as follows:- (The figures in brackets are those for 1959)

	Male	Female	Total
Pulmonary	5(3)	4(3)	9(6)
Non-pulmonary	0(0)	1(0)	1(0)

Two new pulmonary cases were notified, a male aged 49 and a female aged 31. One male pulmonary case came to live in the town and one female non-pulmonary. There were no outward transfers and no deaths or recoveries.

FACTORIES ACTS 1937 and 1948

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health

Premises	No. on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories to which Sections 1-6 are enforced by Local Authorities	14	28	2	Nil
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authorities	4	8	Nil	Nil
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authorities (excluding out-workers' premises)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
TOTAL	18	36	2	Nil

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

There were none.